

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

by

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CHAPTER FOUR

The Laver

TODAY WE SHALL STUDY THE LAVER, THE SECOND article of furniture found in the outer court in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness.

It is at the Laver that man is cleansed, after passing the Brazen Altar. **"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in His holy place?"** He that hath clean hands says the Psalmist.

Let us note what GOD's Word tells us in Exodus 30 verses 18-21: **"Thou shalt make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet . . . when they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not . . . "** [39]

THE SECOND STEP TO FELLOWSHIP

Near the door of entrance to the Tabernacle stood the Brazen Altar upon which a sacrifice burned continually, teaching the eternal truth that without the shedding of blood there is no remission, or forgiveness, of sin.

There is no way, under Heaven, my dear friend, for you to be forgiven of your sins apart from the shedding of the blood of the Lamb of GOD which takes away the sin of the world. Thus the Brazen Altar in the Tabernacle points to Calvary - to CHRIST's sacrifice for our sins. Here at the Brazen Altar man is reconciled to GOD through the death of an innocent substitute who dies in his place. But now, as a man redeemed and forgiven, proceeds toward the Holy of Holies he comes from the Brazen Altar to the Laver for cleansing, to be purified, made holy, for **"Without holiness no man shall see the Lord."**

As Aaron, the High Priest, and his sons left the Brazen Altar, moving on toward the Tabernacle

proper, they must stop at the Laver, there to wash their hands and feet and be cleansed by the water.

Beloved fellow pilgrim, right here is a most important lesson.

You deserved death, but CHRIST died in your place, paying your penalty for sin. You believe this, and therefore you are forgiven and are at peace with GOD. Your past sins are blotted out. You are saved by CHRIST's wonderful atoning blood. [40]

But wait, you long to have communion and fellowship with GOD, to come close to your heavenly Father as a child loves to come to a beloved earthly father. But GOD is in the Holy of Holies, above the blood-sprinkled Mercy Seat and inaccessible to you.

To have fellowship with Him you must have clean hands and feet - cleansed from daily defilement.

Well, here the Laver is GOD's wonderful provision for cleansing! Remember the Laver stands between the Brazen Altar and the door of the Tabernacle.

It is the second step in the way as man approaches GOD in order to have sweet fellowship with Him.

CLEANSED BY GOD'S WORD

In Exodus 30 verse 18: "**Thou shalt make a Laver of brass.**"

There are no dimensions given such as we find concerning the Brazen Altar and other articles of furniture - no dimensions because the Laver is a type of the Word of GOD.

There are no dimensions or limitations to the Word of GOD.

We are told the Laver was made of brass. According to Exodus 38:8 it was made of the brass of the looking glasses, given freely by the women of Israel to be melted and made into the Laver. Looking glasses in the days of Moses were rare and were made of polished brass. These mirrors were prized possessions of the women of Israel, and doubtless they spent a good deal of time looking into them. [41]

Now as you come to the Word of GOD - your looking glass - and as you read and meditate, with an obedient heart, GOD shows you the things in your life which are not pleasing unto Him. Thereby you see your need of daily washing. You confess your sin and turn away from it, and you are washed.

As the priests of old approached the polished brass of the Laver, they saw that in themselves dwelt no good thing.

The burnished Laver revealed any defilements that they had contacted in their daily walk, and they washed.

This indicated to them also the need for inner cleansing.

The inspired Word of GOD from Genesis to Revelation is our Laver to which we should come daily for cleansing, reading, and looking into the mirror of GOD's Word.

The Brazen Altar, where the slain lamb is sacrificed, takes care of the sin question. All past sins are forgiven, blotted out. But the Laver is for daily cleansing, and you need to be cleansed if you are to have fellowship with a Holy GOD.

In Exodus 38:20 Aaron and his sons are told to wash lest they die. Unless we wash, we die. To what? We die to fellowship with GOD.

True, those who stay at the Brazen Altar (the cross) will be saved as though by fire. But they are not cleansed from the defilement of this sinful world about them, and they know nothing of the sweetness of fellowship with GOD, when He reveals or makes Himself real to His child. [42]

THE EXAMPLE OF PETER

Now will you take your Bibles and turn to John 13.

This is a wonderful, rich chapter. My soul has been blessed again and again as I have read and meditated upon it.

At the Last Supper, the Feast of the Passover, JESUS knew that His hour was come, that He would soon depart out of this world unto the Father. He had His beloved disciples there with Him in that upper room. They had partaken of the Pascal lamb. CHRIST, the true Pascal Lamb, was at the table with them. Supper being ended, JESUS, the second person of the Trinity, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, knowing that He was come from GOD and would return to Him, arose from the supper.

He laid aside His outer garments and took a towel and girded Himself.

Think of it - the Creator of all things, the One who literally holds together the great universe, the stars, and the planets, became as a servant, and what did He do? He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with a towel wherewith He was girded.

Do you see it? He was fulfilling the type of the Laver-cleansing.

"Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter said unto Him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet. Jesus answered and said unto Him, what I do thou knowest not now but thou shalt know hereafter." But Peter said unto Him, **"Thou shalt never wash my feet."** (John 13:6-10) [43]

And notice how tenderly JESUS replied, **"If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."**

Now consider this, my friend: Peter was a disciple - forgiven, saved, and for him the sin question was settled.

But what about the daily walk?

Regarding being washed from daily defilement, JESUS said to Peter, **"If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me "** - in fellowship.

Right there between the Brazen Altar and the Laver is the place where many a believer stops in Christian growth, for he does not wish to be cleansed from worldly defilement to lead a clean and separated life.

If such is your case, my brother, do you wonder why you have little power, why your testimony is weak, why your prayers are not answered, why you do not enjoy fellowship with our Lord?

It is that you are not coming for cleansing and turning away from your sins.

Peter realized this when, looking to JESUS he said, **"Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head."** And, **"Jesus said to him, he that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet but is clean every whit."**

Yes, my friend, at the Brazen Altar you are forgiven, but we all need to be washed at the Laver with the water of GOD's word.

There are thousands out in the radio audience, and some here no doubt, who need to come to the Brazen Altar and accept CHRIST as their personal Saviour, realizing that CHRIST bore their sins in His own body. [44]

But I believe there are millions who, having come to the Brazen Altar, are saved, forgiven, but they need to go on to the Laver, to be cleansed.

May GOD open the eyes of your understanding to see the wonder of His blessings which He showers upon those who will go "deeper yet" - who come close to their Lord in sweetness of fellowship.

GOD calls us to a separated life.

In Ephesians 5:26 we are told, **"That He might sanctify and cleanse with the washing of water by the word."**

Oh, do not stay at the cross, but go on to the Laver beyond the door of the Tabernacle, unto the Table of Shewbread, walking in the light as He is in the light - on to fellowship.

I am sure you are not satisfied just to be saved as though by fire with no reward, no fruit, no fellowship with Him!

May GOD open your eyes to see the wonders of His blessings to those who come close to their Lord in sweetness of fellowship - empowered, prayers answered, appropriating His peace and His rest.

Oh, my friend, come and experience all these good things GOD has provided for His children.

Oh! I tell you it is wonderful! I have found this communion with my Lord so sweet that I have had to ask GOD to turn off the Glory, I could stand no more!

Do come, my friend! GOD is faithful. [45]

~ end of chapter 4 ~

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